

Daily Schedule for Fifth Grade

English translation:

A: Which class do you teach?

B: I have grade five (class).

A: Can you tell about your teaching schedule? For example, in the morning, what do you teach? What is it that your pupils do the whole day until they return to their respective homes?

B: We have a timetable that we follow and we write all the subjects there. In primary school, that is at primary level, we have eleven subjects. We have Mathematics, English, Shona, Social Studies, Environmental Science, Home Economics, Religious and Moral Education, AIDS Education—we are now teaching this—and then Art, which used to be called Art and Craft. Craft was mainly for boys who would carve things like cooking-stick, stirring-stick, and other wood carvings such as adzes, hoes, axes, which is the reason why it was called art and craft. Now they are divided into two, that is art on its own and craft on its own. However, we no longer have craft but art only. We also have Physical education, that is, “PE.” These days for Physical Education, we no longer do the old one which was the police one. Long time ago we used to have *dhiriro*, where they would say, “Hands up! Left turn! Right turn!” That’s what happened in the years when we did grade one. That is what they called PE. But these days you can have indoor games. For example, *dudu muduri katswe* is a game because the kids form a circle and one child will be running, calling “*dudu muduri*.” This also helps the child in terms of memory, for example, “Tendai *muduri*.” The child will know that if I name this child, the next child is so and so. For instance, “Kuda *muduri*, Rebecca *muduri*, Tsitsi *muduri*, Rudo *muduri*.” So when the child is calling *muduri*, the child will be running and this is an indoor game like *mafulawu*, the ball game, *arauru*, hopscotch, *nhodo*—all these games are under physical education. But back in the days, that is not the way it was done. So such games, especially first term, it will be raining so we can not go outside to run with the kids. We only do indoor games.

A: So this timetable starts from what time?

B: We start in the morning up to 10 o’clock, and the children get a break.

A: So what do kids do at break time?

B: During the break, children will be eating and relaxing when they are not eating, or they run around for thirty minutes only.

A: Okay. Alright. So you said you have...

B: This timetable that I talked about can change. You are not a slave to that. You as the owner of that class, you can change the timetable. Because if you want to keep following it, you will realize that there is a subject that will suffer because it is not done thoroughly whilst the other will be getting enough time.

A: Okay. So you are saying...

B: So what I do personally, with the experience of teaching, I would say, (for example) from Monday to Friday, the first lesson is Mathematics. I would change that, such that if I start with Mathematics today, tomorrow I will not start with Mathematics. Tomorrow I would start with English. The following day, I will not start with English, but I will begin with Shona. The following day, I will not start with Shona but I will start with Social Studies. The following day, I will start with PE or music. I give each subject a chance to be the first because most of the time the first lesson is powerful. The children will still be fresh in the morning. They would not be tired when they are coming from home, whereas for lessons that are taught after break, ah, some will be falling asleep. Some will be too full from what they would have eaten at break time. So lessons that are done before break, usually before break, we have four periods. So these lessons that are done before break, they get enough time. Also we have lessons like, for example, in day you will find that before break you have thirty minutes of Shona and after break you have another thirty minutes of Shona again. So it is up to you as a teacher to correct the timetable, like I said before, you are not a slave to your timetable.

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